Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 EUR-12 SSM-03 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /091 W

R 101455Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4920

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

CONFIDENTIAL CAIRO 7938

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, PLO

SUBJECT: SHUQAIRY REDUX

REF: (A) CAIRO 7378, (B) DAMASCUS 2851

- 1. ACCORDING EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARAB LEAGUE BASHIR, EX-PLO CHRM SHUQAIRY'S NEW ARAB LEAGUE CONNECTION WILL BE QUIETLY TERMINATED IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.
- 2. BASHIR GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY OF SHUQAIRY EPI-SODE: IN ORDER FACILITATE WRITING OF HIS PROJECTED BOOK ON ARAB LEAGUE, SHUQAIRY APPROACHED SYG RIAD PRIVATELY AND ASKED FOR HIS HELP. RIAD SENT NOTES TO MEMBER STATES INFORMING THEM OF PROJECT AND ASKED THAT THEY COOPERATE CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH FORMER AL ASSISTANT SYG SHUQAIRY. WHEN NEWS GOT OUT, BASHIR AND "SOME OTHER AL AMBASSADORS" OBJECTED, POINTING OUT THAT MEMBER STATES HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED. BASHIR SAID PRIVATELY TO RIAD THAT ARMED WITH RIAD'S NOTE, SHUQAIRY'S INEVITABLE PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS LIKELY BE CONFUSED BY LISTENERS WITH ARAB LEAGUE POLICY STATEMENTS. BASHIR SAID HE HAD SUPPRESSED FORMAL AL DISCUSSION OF ISSUE, PRE-

FERING HANDLE IT PRIVATELY WITH RIAD, WHO NOW REGRETS INITIAL DECISION. RIAD WILL TAKE SHUQAIRY ASIDE QUIETLY AND TELL HIM THE NOTES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN.

2. DRAWING ON REF B, EMBOFF ASKED BASHIR IF HE HAD SEEN SYRIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF SHUQAIRY'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS. HE HAD NOT, BUT AGREED WITH EMBASSY DAMASCUS'S ASSESSMENT THAT SYRIA, BUYING INSURANCE FOR POSSIBLE NEW CONFRONTATION WITH FATAH, PROBABLY SEEKING CREATE ADDITIONAL CONTROLLED ASSETS AMONG PALESTINIANS. BASHIR THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT SHUQAIRY HIMSELF IS SO TOTALLY DISCREDITED THAT THE "ASSET" WOULD BE FRAIL.

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NNN

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Subject: SHUQAIRY REDUX

TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, PLO, AL, (SHUQAIRY, HAMAD)

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